## What Is Claimed Is:

- 1. A method for triggering a restraint system, an acceleration signal which is characteristic for a collision being generated; the acceleration signal being on the one hand integrated to form a speed signal and on the other hand being used to determine a threshold value for the speed signal; the threshold value being adapted by a variable  $(\Delta V_{ADD-ON})$  which is determined from a plurality of characteristics of the acceleration signal and/or of the speed signal and/or of at least one further sensor signal; and the restraint system being triggered as a function of a comparison of the speed signal  $(\Delta V_{X})$  with the adapted threshold value  $(\Delta V_{XTH-ADD})$ .
- The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of characteristics are determined as a function of a hammer blow and/or an integration window and/or a signal from an up-front sensor and/or as a function of a signal variation caused by a deformable barrier and/or by a pattern detection.
- 3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of characteristics are combined by an adder (8).
- 4. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein at least one amplifier (7) is used to assess the variable.
- 5. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the amplifier (7) is adjusted adaptively.
- 6. The method as recited in one of the foregoing claims, wherein a filter (3) is used for filtering the acceleration signal before the threshold value

calculation (4).

- 7. The method as recited in one of the foregoing claims, wherein at least some of the characteristics and/or the at least one sensor signal are logically linked to one another in order to determine the variable  $(\Delta V_{ADD-ON})$ .
- 8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the linking is performed by a matrix.
- 9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein both dynamic and static characteristics are linked in the matrix.
- 10. Use of a control unit in a method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 9.